

Crystal Darkness Fact Sheet

Arizona faces a rising crises of methamphetamine use and distribution. The series of statistics surrounding this terrible drug are shocking. Below is a compilation of facts from several federal and local law enforcement studies over the past 10 years and a 2006 report by Attorney General Terry Goddard's office. The problem has only grown worse since then.

Distribution and Production:

- Arizona is a critical hub for the distribution of Mexican-produced methamphetamine throughout the Midwest and other parts of the nation;
- Mexican trafficking groups and their associates now make up 80% of meth arrests;
- From 2000-2006, there were 1,412 meth-production-related seizures in the state of Arizona;
- Arizona lab seizures actually decreased from 398 in 2000 to 122 in 2004;
- 51% of injuries at meth labs happen to first responders;
- The typical lab cooker produces 48 to 72 times a year;
- Each pound of meth produced leaves behind an estimated 5-7 pounds of toxic waste.

Effects, Use and Abuse:

- From 2000-2004 the number of individuals seeking treatment for meth addiction quintupled from 614 people in 2000 to 3,301 in 2004;
- In 2003, 42% of females and 38% of men booked into Maricopa County jail tested positive for methamphetamine;
- 2.91 % of Arizona young adults aged 18 – 25 report meth use in 2005;
- In the city of Phoenix, methamphetamine-related deaths increased from 20 in 1992 to 122 in 1994, a 570% jump;
- Abuse of methamphetamine may cause irregular heartbeat and even physical collapse;
- Abuse of the drug can lead to delusions, hallucinations, and a feeling of paranoia.

Children and Youths:

- Roughly 65% of Arizona state child abuse and neglect cases involved meth use;
- From 2000-2005, 408 children were rescued from meth labs, 281 in Maricopa County;
- 30-35% of meth labs seized are residences with children;
- From 2000-2002, 33% of children found at meth labs tested positive for the drug;
- Parental exposure to meth causes infants to be six times more likely to be born with birth defects;
- Children found in meth labs often suffer from developmental delays.
- 2.02 % of Arizona teens aged 12 or older report Meth use in 2005;
- In 2006, Meth use rose to: 2.6% amongst 8th graders; 5.0% amongst 10th graders; and 6.6% amongst 12th graders.

The Costs & Community Impact:

- From 2000-2005, gross contamination associated with meth labs exceeded \$4.1 million;
- Meth is the leading drug law enforcement problem in the U.S.;
- 70% of reporting counties found 40-50% of all arrests between 200-2005 were meth related;
- 90-95% of all mail fraud in greater Tucson is meth related;
- The rates of meth hospital admissions increased in 1990-2004 by: 855% in Maricopa County, 1940% in Pima County, 2950% in rural counties